

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 /098 W  
-----052891 100956Z /23

P R 091725Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1785  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NY  
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3193

E. O. 11652

TAGS: ELAB PINT IS  
SUBJ: NEW PROBLEM SIGN THE LABOR FRONT WITH POLITICAL  
IMPLIOTIONS

1. FACED WITH A SPREADING SHIPPING AND PORT WORKERS  
STRIKE (NOW IN ITS SEVENTH WEEK) AND STRIKE THREATS  
FROM EL-AL EMPLOYEES, AIRPORT WORKERS AND AN ARRAY OF  
CIVIL SERVANTS AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, THE  
FINANCE MINISTER AND THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER  
ARE MAKING TOUGH NOISES. THESE GOVERNMENT REACTIONS SO  
FAR HAVE LITTLE CREDIBILITY BUT IT IS A FOREGONE CONSLUSION  
THAT STRIKES AND TOUGH BARGAINING LIE AHFEAD AS THE  
APRIL 1 DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR THE OVERALL AGREEMENTS  
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COVERING BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

2. ONE OF THE MORE TROUBLESOME IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS  
IS THE DEMAND OF THE POSTAL AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS  
TO BE PLACED UNDER A SPECIAL POSTAL AND COMMUNICATIONS  
AUTHORITY WHICH CAN SET SALARIES OUTSIDE THE CIVIL

SERVICE SYSTEM. THEY ALSO WANT THE SAME 40 PERCENT INCREASE GRANTED TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WORKERS WHEN THEY WERE PLACED UNDER A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM. FOLLOWING BRIEF WARNING STRIKE, THE GOVERNMENT AND HISTADRUT HAVE NOW AGREED THAT THE ISSUE BE ARBITRATED AND THAT MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION-ABSORPTION DAVID LEVY, THE FORMER HEAD OF THE LIKUD FACTION OF THE HISTADRUT, A HERUT MEMBER, AND MILITANT TRADE UNIONIST, SHOULD BE THE ARBITRATOR. WHATEVER DECISION HE WILL MAKE WILL SET A PATTERN FOR OTHER CIVIL SERVICE WAGE DEMANDS. MOREOVER, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS MEIR AMIT HAS ALREADY INDICATED TO THE CIVIL SERVICE UNION LEADERS IN HIS MINISTRY THAT HE AGREES THAT THEIR WAGE DEMANDS ARE LIGITIMATE. THUGCE FAIRLY GENEROUS WAGE INCREASE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY EXPECTED. THIS MOVE, ACCORDING TO HISTADRUT SOURCES, COULD WELL DEPRIVE FINANCE MINISTER EHRLICH OF HIS GUIDING ROLE IN SETTING INCOMES POLICY. IT ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL ALSO MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR HISTADRUT TO RESTRAIN HIGHER WAGE DEMANDS OF THE MORE MILITANT WORKS COUNCILS AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS.

3. OTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE CABINET IS FARMVJOM UNITED ON WAGE POLICY WAS A RECENT STATEMENT BY EDUCATION MINISTER ZEBULON HAMMER (NRP) SUPPORTING THE 30 PER-CENT ARRAYED DEMANDED BY THE TEACHERS AND

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A SIMILAR ENDORSEMENT BY JUSTICE MINISTER SHMUEL TAMIR (DMC) OF A 70 PERCENT WAGE DEMAND OF JUSTICES AND OFFICERS OF THE COURTS.

4. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN UPON HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON CAN THUS BE EXPECTED TO HAVE A HARD FIGHT ON HIS HANDS TRYING TO RESTORE TO EHRLICH THE PRINCIPAL AUTHORITY FOR INCOME POLICY AND TO ESTABLISH CABINET UNITY ON WAGE AND SOCIAL POLICY. EVEN HIS TOUGH POSITION ON 242 AND HIS OBTAINING A SOMEWHAT GREATER ROLE FOR HERUT IN WZO AND THE JEWISH AGENCY ARE UNLIKELY TO APPEASE THE HERUT RANK AND FILE, WHO FEELHNO STRONGLY ABOUT THESE INTERNAL ISSUES THAT THEY ARE AT THE VERGE OF REVOLT. LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** NEW PROBLEM SIGN THE LABOR FRONT WITH POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, EWWT, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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